

MURDER AT DEWSBURY.

A WOMAN THROWN OVER A BRIDGE.

A shocking tragedy was enacted at Dewsbury on Monday night, a woman having been murdered between nine and ten o'clock by being thrown over the bridge crossing the Calder at Savile Town. The alleged murderer is one Harry Walker, a fireman in the employ of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company, and living at Mirfield. He is a tall, thin man, about 26 years of age. He was seen by several persons to commit the act, these including Mrs. Abraham Firth, of Savile Town; Mr. Joseph Brown (Chairman of the Thornhill Local Board), who was driving over the bridge into Dewsbury; and Mr. G. W. Jepson, of Savile Town. Walker and the woman were standing on the bridge on the western side, near the first pier from Dewsbury, and suddenly stooping, the man lifted the woman up and threw her over the low iron balustrades. She gave a slight scream, then dropped into the water, and all was still. It is supposed that she struck the pier, and was so injured as to be unable to do anything to save herself. Walker ran away, but was stopped by a man named Oakes, and given into the custody of the Dewsbury police, who found that he was intoxicated. On being taken to the lockups, he was placed in the day-room under guard, and there fell into a heavy sleep. Who the woman is is not known, but it is believed she is of the unfortunate class. Walker since he became sober has confessed to the crime, and says he regrets what has occurred.

Shortly after three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon the body of the woman was found within a short distance of where the tragedy was perpetrated. The remains have been identified as those of Sarah Ann Chatman, a native of Ashton-under-Lyne, who had been leading an immoral life. Walker, who is a stoker on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, was brought before the Dewsbury magistrates, and remanded, on a charge of murder.

At the inquest, which was before Mr. Maitland, the jury found "that the woman had been drowned, her death being caused by her being lifted over the rails of the bridge by the prisoner, and they made the recommendation that if found guilty at the assizes capital punishment should not take place."